

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, FOR THE YEAR 1896.

ATHERSTONE,

February 2nd, 1897.

To the Sheepy Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Sickness and Mortality in your District for the year 1896.

During the year, 13 deaths and 31 births were registered. I estimate the population to the middle of 1896 at 1,400. This gives a death-rate of 9·2, and a birth-rate of 22·1; the zymotic death-rate is *nil*. The death-rate is highly satisfactory. Eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Witherley; four at Sheepy; and one at Ratcliffe. Two cases of Erysipelas occurred at Witherley, and one case of Typhoid Fever at Ratcliffe. No less than 18 out of the 23 cases of Scarlet Fever were promptly removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital of the Sheepy and Atherstone Rural District Councils; and I have no doubt to their prompt isolation is due the check of the epidemic and the absence of any fatal cases. Witherley School was closed for some time by my recommendation. No deaths occurred in the parishes of Sheepy Parva, Atterton, and Drayton.

Sheepy Magna.—A ditch in the Folly, which in past years has been a nuisance owing to a portion of the sewage of the village flowing into it, is now periodically cleaned out, thereby minimising the nuisance.

Pinwall.—New middens and ash-pits have been erected at Windmill Cottages, and a new well sunk.

Ratcliffe.—A tank has been constructed on land belonging to Mr. Geo. Palmer, to intercept the solid matter from the sewage, the effluent passing over land.

Witherley.—The nuisance reported last year, with respect to the sewage emptying from the Bull Inn into the Atherstone Rural District, has been remedied by diverting it into a cesspool at the back of the premises.

During the year, complaints have been received of the nuisance caused by the sewage of the greater part of Witherley flowing into the ditch at the side of the road in the Mythe Lane, without being purified in any way, except by a portion of the solid matter being intercepted by means of a small catch-pit, and the effluent passing through coke. I recommend that a Dortmund tank be built in place of the existing small catch-pit, and the sewage treated by alumino-ferric previous to entering the tank. I am aware that during a flood this would not act, but I consider that during the greater part of the year a great improvement would be effected.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT MEARS.

